



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FORMER INDEPENDENCE POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED FOR ROBBERY CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former Independence police officer was sentenced today for conspiring to rob two undercover FBI agents who were posing as couriers of drug money.

Brian C. McGarr, 42, of Independence, was sentenced this afternoon by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs to four years, nine months in prison without parole.

On April 26, 2002, **McGarr** waived indictment and pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit robbery and to take money from two purported drug couriers by means of the threatened use of force and violence, and through fear of injury. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **McGarr** admitted that he conspired to rob by threats of force, violence and intimidation, money from two purported drug couriers (who were actually two undercover female FBI agents). At the time of the conspiracy **McGarr** was an officer with the Independence, Mo., Police Department.

Graves explained that an individual cooperating with the FBI and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department telephoned **McGarr** on March 18, 2002, telling him that two female drug couriers were parked in the House of Sleep parking lot at 12780 East 40 Highway in Independence, waiting for a friend to come and pick up money from drug sales. While on duty, Graves said, **McGarr** went to the parking lot intending to rob the "couriers." **McGarr** approached the vehicle and asked the occupants for identification. However, a second patrol car arrived to provide assistance, and **McGarr** was forced to call in a stranded motorist report and run a license check of the vehicle. According to Graves, after **McGarr** and the other patrol unit left, **McGarr** arranged for his brother, **Scott McGarr**, to rob the two female drug couriers. But when **Scott McGarr** arrived at the parking lot, the "couriers" had already been removed from the area by the FBI.

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POLICE OFFICER

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On April 26, 2002, **Scott A. McGarr**, 41, of Lee's Summit, waived indictment and pleaded guilty to conspiring with his brother, **Brian C. McGarr**, to commit robbery and to take money from the presence of and against the will of two purported drug couriers by means of the threatened use of force and violence, and through fear of injury.

Brian McGarr was arrested at the Independence Police Department on March 19, 2002.

According to Graves, in June 1998 the FBI opened an investigation into allegations that **Brian McGarr**, in his capacity as a police officer, had conspired to rob drug dealers of drugs and money. The investigation was closed after a cooperating witness refused further cooperation due to fear for personal safety. Subsequently, Graves said, in early February 2002, the FBI initiated a joint investigation with the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department's Gang Squad and the Independence Police Department to investigate allegations that **Brian McGarr** was soliciting individuals to identify drug dealers from whom he could steal drugs and cash.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, investigators surveilled **Brian McGarr** on February 22, 2002, as he used a rock to break into a vehicle on the parking lot of the American Inn, 4141 Noland Road, in Independence. **Brian McGarr** was surveilled on videotape as he stole \$6,700 in currency from the vehicle, which in fact was an undercover vehicle being used as part of a sting operation, according to the affidavit. **Brian McGarr** later gave \$3,000 of the stolen cash to a cooperating witness who had tipped him to the location of the "drug money," the affidavit alleges.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheryle L. Jeans. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with cooperation from the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department's Gang Unit and the Independence Police Department.
